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present rate of consumption. The day does not seem distant, therefore, when these vast New Zealand deposits of high-grade ores will be appreciated and their utilization begun. I. B.

**The Oceanic Languages, their grammatical structure, vocabulary and origin.** By D. Macdonald, D.D., of the New Hebrides Mission, member of the Société d'Ethnographie, Paris. Henry Frowde: London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, New York, and Toronto, 1907. Pp. xv, 352, and two maps.

Not in the slightest degree indicated upon the title of this long-awaited contribution to our knowledge of the Western Pacific, the really important fact is that this work consists of a grammar and dictionary of the language of Efate in the New Hebrides. The author in his preface calls it in so many words "a complete dictionary of the language"; with more precaution and greater precision we may note from actual tally that the dictionary contains 3,657 entries. At last we have our first dictionary of any Melanesian language, the Fijian so interestingly recorded in Hazlewood's dictionary being a mixed speech in which the Polynesian element is preponderant. It has been a long wait. We have a Hawaiian dictionary published at Lahainaluna in 1845. Since that time the life of a man has passed before Melanesia receives something better than brief and irregular word-lists scattered through fugitive publications. Dr. Macdonald has been at work upon his task for thirty-five years, and he may well be proud that he has witnessed the production of this, the third and crowning volume of his studies upon the New Hebridean languages, the former volumes having been published in Melbourne in 1889 and 1891 at the charges of the Colony of Victoria, and the volume now in hand similarly appears through the generous liberality of the Commonwealth of Australia. We feel sure that Dr. Macdonald's admirably urged theory of the Semitic origin of the Malayo-Polynesian (including therein the Melanesian) will not be passed without a vigorous challenge from the philologists who specialize in that speech family or families. Yet even should the theory be overset and the comparative philological apparatus through which it is developed be cast aside as lumber, that does not in the least affect the value of the dictionary as our first vocabulary of Melanesian speech. The first ordered investigation of the complex of tongues in the western archipelagoes of the South Pacific was made by H. C. von der Gabelentz upon unfortunately scanty and not always accurate data and was published in 1861, when Dr. Macdonald was entering upon that life work so properly crowned with the bays by this monument of his own erection. Since then the only considerable addition has been Codrington's "Melanesian Languages" (1885) and that pretends to no more than comparative grammar. Our author has now produced the first dictionary, given us the first codified data, and thereby has made it possible to give intelligent study to the various scattered lists of words of the island area from New Caledonia to New Guinea. W. C.

**Die Gletscher.** Von Dr. Hans Hess, Königl.-Gymnasial-Professor in Ansbach. With 72 figures (8 full-page half-tones) and four Maps. Braunschweig: F. Vieweg & Sohn, 1904.

The bibliography of glaciers comprises many titles, among which are several books from the times of von Böhm (1770) and de Saussure (1786) to the present day, but for twenty years the student has turned to A. Heim's "Handbuch der